



## **Purple Heart Medal Presentation Ceremony**

**Tuesday, 30 September 2008**



**General Norty Schwartz**

**~10 min  
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Thank you all for joining Suzie and me today as we honor our Nation's finest. I can't begin to tell you what a privilege it is for me to stand on the same stage with such magnificent people. I am honored to be your Chief. I am honored to be your fellow Airman. I am honored to serve at your side.

Today's ceremony very much embodies what it means to answer our Nation's call to serve. When I read the stories you'll hear of these Airmen performing bravely in the face of danger, I couldn't help but think about our shared commitments. I am mindful of the promises we make and that bind us together.

From the day each of us joined the world's finest Air Force, we are sometimes called to accomplish something larger than ourselves. We made promises the moment we took the oath – to defend, to support, to care about our brothers and sisters who serve at our left and right.

Swearing an oath – making a promise – changed us for a lifetime. This promise sparks in us many emotions. Our shared promise springs from a corresponding spirit that says, "Send Me."



When these Airmen said “Send Me,” they began a journey of devotion to duty that along the way exacted a heavy price – a price upon themselves and their families. Each bears the scars that testify of a promise kept, proving these Airmen worthy of the highest trust of our Nation.

This business – defending our Nation – is all about trust. The American people place special confidence in us:

- to do the right thing, even in the face of danger;
- to keep our Nation safe, even in times of struggle;
- and win our Nation’s wars, even against a most elusive foe.

Today we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them, and we could not be more proud of their service.

We all made a promise with our right hand raised – and we keep that promise by fighting – and winning – today’s war. We’re not fighting “in lieu of” anything. We’re in – all in. Tech. Sgt. Frost, Tech. Sgt. Popp and Staff Sgt. Bradley were all in – ARE all in. And we’re right there with you – all the way to the finish line, because Air Power is a team sport.



The Air Force team was with you on the battlefield as you carried out your mission. The team was with you when you were evacuated, promising to never leave a fellow Airman behind. The team was behind you as you kept that promise on the battlefield, with the full support of your families and friends – squadron mates, joint partners and our allies.

Our enduring strength comes from the power of many, manifested in the actions of a few. We wouldn't be here without our fellow Airmen, our families or our communities, and we are here *because* of them. We fight for them, and we live for them.

Their support is our motivation, our fuel, and our advantage. Our thoughts never leave them as we strive to keep our promises. Mrs. Bradley, thank you for giving your husband such strength and hope. And thank you for representing all the family members who couldn't be with us today. You're every ounce the patriot and servant these uniformed Americans are, and we thank you for your service.

And now it's our turn to keep another promise as a team. We vow to keep fighting for the cause – the cause to which you gave your heart and soul and more. We promise to be your team and to give it our all. And we promise to support you to the finish.



Providing world class care to our Nation's wounded warriors is our solemn obligation. Just as you bear the scars of a promise kept, we bear the memory of your service. We'll carry the baton you passed, and join you in bearing your burdens. As you go on keeping the promise, we'll keep this promise, too.

This is our simple pledge to each of you and your families: we are with you. *We are with you.* We are with you – caring for you and your families. As you carry on with the thanks of a grateful Nation, the team is still behind you. We will do this together.

Thank you all for joining us today, and thanks to all who continue to serve.